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A REFLECTION OF AMERICAN CONTRIBUTIONS OF ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, February 14 marked the start of the Lunar New Year, a holiday celebrated by Asian and Asian Americans around the world. I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the rich history and contributions that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made to our country.

For the last 13 years, I've had the pleasure of representing the largest Vietnamese population in the world out of Vietnam, which is right in Orange County, California. Every year, the Union of Vietnamese Student Associations of Southern California organizes the Orange County Tet Festival, which celebrates the Lunar New Year with an array of traditional foods, ceremonies and customs.

This year, we celebrate the Year of the Tiger, known for their courage and optimism and fearless leadership. Those are the qualities of the tiger, and all of my constituents have demonstrated them in overcoming the enormous challenges that are facing our economy.

Again, it is a great honor to represent the Vietnamese community in Orange County, and I look forward to wishing them a great new year.

Chuc ma na moi!

JOBS

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, in the midst of the worst recession in over a generation, this administration continues to advance its job-killing climate agendas. For instance, the recent EPA endangerment finding is particularly disturbing.

This reckless regulation lays the groundwork for a type of unlegislated, administrative cap-and-trade, which, without an effective tailoring rule limiting its application, could destroy nearly 3 million manufacturing jobs and could result in lost economic activity of \$7 trillion.

During the State of the Union we heard President Obama proclaim that job creation should be this country's main focus. Then why does he insist on attacking and destroying energy, finance and the health care sectors, killing jobs in the process?

I urge the President to stay true to his word and to work with Republicans in order to advance commonsense ideas which will rein in government spending, which will cut our deficits and will restore the three top things this country wants the most—jobs, jobs, jobs.

REBUILD MAIN STREET AND RESCUE BACK STREET

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, civil rights' leaders and economists from the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, from the AFL-CIO, from the Center for Community Change, from the Economic Policy Institute, from the NAACP, and from the National Council of La Raza called for us to develop legislation to mitigate the job crisis facing millions of Americans. They outline what we believe is a very robust jobs program and bill:

First, the fast-track creation of jobs in the public sector that serve community-level needs.

Second, immediate investment in the infrastructure of schools and public transit.

Third, the prevention of the foreclosure crisis.

It is very important to recognize and understand what these leaders are saying with regard to the entire country in this economic recession. The diversity of American communities clearly dictates that one size does not fit all, according to Ben Jealous of the NAACP.

We have to rebuild Main Street and rescue Back Street. We just can't go back to the economy of 3 to 4 years ago when African Americans suffered perennial unemployment rates.

KANSANS NEED JOBS, NOT MORE BROKEN PROMISES

(Ms. JENKINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, last year when President Obama signed into law the so-called "stimulus package," we were told that it would cost \$787 billion and that it would create 33,000 Kansas jobs. Unfortunately, the facts paint a different picture. Since the stimulus became law, the cost has increased to \$862 billion, and over 47,000 Kansans have lost jobs.

The same rings true: Making promises builds hope. Keeping promises builds trust. That's why I will keep my promise to Kansas by supporting a no-cost jobs plan to put Kansans back to work, to keep taxes low for small businesses, to increase international markets for American products, to practice fiscal restraint, and to restore confidence in the Federal Government.

Kansans need jobs, not more broken promises.

JOBS, WALL STREET AND HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I represent the most unique city on the planet, the City of Las Vegas. It's a great place with great people, but we are hurting, and my constituents are angry.

I've got the second highest unemployment rate in the country, the highest mortgage foreclosure rate in the country, and 460,000 Nevadans have no health insurance. The stimulus bill saved our State—money for education and Medicaid, unemployment compensation, job creation, infrastructure improvements—but we need to do more. We need to pass a jobs bill to get more people back to work. We need to pass health care reform to provide medical care for those who can't afford it on their own.

Finally, for the financial industry, whose reckless behavior put this Nation and the rest of the world in a deep recession, Congress must pass meaningful Wall Street reform and consumer protection. I know we talk all the time about Wall Street's being a casino. Coming from Las Vegas and representing Las Vegas, let me assure you no casino on the planet behaves as irresponsibly and as recklessly as Wall Street does. Wall Street ought to be ashamed and should take a lesson from the casino industry.

IT'S ABOUT JOBS

(Mr. ROGERS of Alabama asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Where are the jobs? That's what the folks in East Alabama and around the country want to know.

A year ago, when the President came in, we thought he was going to do something about it. Unfortunately, his idea of remedying the problem was passing the stimulus bill, which I like to think of as the Obama slush fund/political slush fund because that's what it really is. If it, in fact, had been a stimulus bill, it would have been spent in the first year, at a minimum, instead of over 5 years. Instead, he didn't.

Last month, I was encouraged when the President said he was going to focus like a laser on jobs this year. To that end, he has called for a health care summit this week. The President has got to get off his drive to push universal, government-run health insurance on the American people, and has to start talking about and working on the things that we really care about, one of which is getting our people back to work.

What the President needs to do is to drop his push for government-run health care and to start working with his Treasury Department to get them and our banks lending again. Start working with our small business people to find out what kind of relief they need to start hiring again. It's about jobs, Mr. President.

BIPARTISANSHIP

(Mr. HALL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HALL of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to say that, on occasion, we do work in a bipartisan fashion and that the President works with members of both parties.

In fact, I was a cosponsor of a bill that took effect as law yesterday—the Credit Card Bill of Rights, as it is commonly called. There was an accountability act, which was originally sponsored by Congresswoman MALONEY of New York. It passed this House by 357 “aye” votes, if I remember correctly, and it passed the Senate with 90 “aye” votes. That’s a pretty strong statement of bipartisanship to protect the American consumer from the same banks, the same financial institutions that were bailed out by the taxpayers, which then turned around and jacked up interest rates for people with credit cards, interest rates as high as 29.9 percent.

I know. I was one of those people who got a notice. I read the fine print, and I said, I pay on time. I’ve paid more than the minimum payment. How can this be done especially when money/credit is so cheap from the Fed?

So I am proud of the fact that we worked to keep children from being exploited and students from being sent credit card offers, that we worked to protect families against these unexplained increases in interest rates, and that we worked together across the aisle.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, as we mark the anniversary of the so-called “stimulus plan,” Americans want to know: Where are the jobs?

In my home State of West Virginia, the White House predicted that their \$800 billion stimulus package would create 20,000 jobs. Sadly, we have actually lost over 10,000 jobs. That’s bad news for many families. If that’s not bad enough that the so-called “stimulus” isn’t living up to its promises of new jobs, it’s even worse that the policies of this administration are actually contributing to job loss in States like mine. Cap-and-trade puts an economic target on the backs of States like mine, which results in job loss.

Meanwhile, the President’s EPA has continued to hold up mining permits across Appalachia, creating an unprecedented sense of uncertainty that is already costing mining jobs and is threatening thousands more. Further, the EPA is threatening to or is pushing to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, which will undoubtedly cost more thousands of jobs in our State.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents may have thought their tax dollars were

going to be used to fund the stimulus to result in jobs, but I join them in asking: Where are the jobs?

PUT ASIDE THE PARTISAN AGENDA

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the masters of information, which I call my colleagues on the other side of the aisle here, can’t disagree with the fact that jobs, homes and insurance have been lost by Americans due to the failed Bush policies of trickle-down economics.

I want to talk about health care. A few people came up to me during our last district work period, and said, I’ve lost my job. I’ve lost my home to foreclosure, but take care of health care.

We can do it together if we stop the obstruction on the other side of the aisle. This is very important for the American people. Instead of being masters of misinformation, I think my colleagues on the other side should put aside their partisan agenda and work towards what is best for the American people.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the same question which Americans are asking all over our great country, which is: Where are the jobs?

We still face almost 10 percent unemployment at the national level and a totally unacceptable 11.8 percent unemployment rate in my home State of Florida. It is truly astounding that even the administration’s latest budget estimates project that the national unemployment rate will still be near 10 percent for yet another year.

It is time that Americans of all backgrounds and parties say, yes, we can do better than this. It is time for the President and Congress to take a proven approach for tax relief for working families and small businesses while doing everything that we can to reduce the growing Federal debt, which is holding up further economic growth. We must do better so we no longer have to ask “Where are the jobs?” for yet another year.

A NEW DIRECTION

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. To hear our Republican colleagues, you’d think they have an idea or a plan on how to put people back to work.

Remember, it was the failed deregulatory policies of the Bush administra-

tion and of the Republican majority that ultimately led to the collapse of Wall Street, to the emptying out of people’s savings accounts and to the destroying of businesses across America. It was also their failed free trade policies that exported 3 million manufacturing jobs during the Bush-Republican era.

But, yeah, they always say tax cuts will cure everything. I would say that the worst part of the stimulus bill they are criticizing—and I voted against that bill—was the \$340 billion in tax cuts insisted upon by three Republican Senators. How many jobs have they produced?

What did you do with your tax cuts? last week I asked my constituents.

They said, I didn’t get a tax cut.

I said, Oh, yeah, you did. You got \$8 less withholding.

They said, Well, that’s not going to do anything. That’s not going to put my neighbor back to work. That’s not going to create any jobs.

Their nostrum is more tax cuts, more deficits, more debt, more deregulation, more failed free trade. We need a new direction. Yes, this administration hasn’t done everything I’ve wanted, but it’s a heck of a lot better than the disasters they’ve visited upon us.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

(Mr. LUETKEMEYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, last week, I spent a lot of time back in the district, talking to my constituents, and they asked one simple question:

Where are the jobs?

Folks in Macon, Kirksville, Kahoka, and throughout the district remember all too well the promises of the so-called “stimulus plan.” They realize now they were empty promises. People back home were eager to hear about Republican plans to reduce taxes and to cut spending. Folks are mad at this Congress for spending more than they take in and for proposing more job-killing taxes and regulations. The small business people I talk to understand you can’t spend more than you can afford, and you can’t exist with increased tax burdens and more harmful regulations and expect the economy to turn around.

I’ve heard the voices of the people of the Ninth District, and I am going to work hard to try and find a way to provide more jobs, more jobs, more jobs. The people of the “show me” State are waiting for us to show them the jobs.

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IT’S TIME TO LIVE WITHIN OUR MEANS

(Mr. KAGEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)